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Panama City Pilot

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Vol. 1.

Panama City, Washington County, Florida. November 14th, 1907.

No. 25

Beach Combings.

Felix and Pettie have been painting on M. B. Jenks house the past week.

A. J. Gay was a visitor here on Monday. He had just returned from Vernon.

H. H. Mock returned Saturday evening from a weeks absence at Vernon.

C. E. Evans and brother, of Millville, were Panama City visitors on Monday.

G. B. Thompson, of Panama City, is a guest of the Central Hotel.---Verdict Chipley.

W. H. Priest, of Vicksburg, was a visitor here over Sunday, leaving for home Monday.

I. G. Shores has just completed a fireplace and chimneys at M. B. Jenks new house on 2nd street.

J. J. Ward left yesterday morning, by team to the railway, for a short visit to DeFuniak Springs and elsewhere.

Rev F. Wineman will preach in the school house here on Saturday night, November 16th, services beginning at 7 o'clock.

R. L. McKenzie is a Pensacola visitor this week, having started for there yesterday morning, overland to the railway.

T. J. Watts, owner of the telephone line from the bay to Chipley, was here the past week adjusting instruments and looking over the line.

L. B. and T. B. Young, of Nixon, Fla., are among the business visitors to the city who are registered at the Escambia.---Pensacola Journal, 10th.

J. H. Anderson, of Southport, was a pleasant caller at the PILOT office on Tuesday. Mr Anderson was taking Mr Cobb about the bay in his comfortable launch.

Work on the B. C. & St A. Ry. is progressing rapidly with a prospect of reaching the Bay at an early date. A large number of men and teams are at work.---Verdict Chipley.

J. R. Thompson and T. Krebs have been spending some time this past week in hauling lumber from the mill to the dock, to be used in the building of Mr Thompson's new house at St Andrew.

H. J. Bruton, of Bainbridge, accompanied by L. B. Griffin, of Decatur county, Ga., were Panama City visitors on Tuesday evening. The gentlemen started yesterday for their homes, on the Tarpon, by way of Carabelle.

The colored Missionary Baptist Church have the timbers out and foundation ready for their new church which they will build at the corner of East End avenue and 7th street. They propose to keep right at the work until it is done.

Twice within the past week the mail has failed to reach Bay Head from Chipley in time to be brought down the same day. Tuesday our citizens received three days mail, and daily papers of Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The most of the bay fishermen will finish fishing to-morrow, the 15th, that being the end of the mullet season as provided by law, and there being too few other fish at present to warrant continuing at the work. The Fall fishing has on the whole been unprofitable. A few have made fair wages, and two or three a little better than that, but there have been but few good runs or catches, and many have not come out even.

E. R. Cobb, General Freight and Passenger Agent of the Mobile & Gulf Steamship Co., the owners of the Manteo, was a business caller here on Tuesday. Mr Cobb was making a tour of the bay country in the interest of his line, and stated that possibly the Manteo might make this bay one of their ports of call. The Manteo has visited our bay before, once during last Spring, and since then has been plying between New Orleans and Tampa. The boat is a large one, 190 feet in length, 20 feet beam, and 9 feet depth of hold, with 535 net tons capacity, an all around good boat for the coast trade, especially for passenger service. A definite schedule will be established soon. Undoubtedly New Orleans will be the starting point of the boat.

Incorporation Meeting.

Drummond's Ultimatum!

ST ANDREWS 7 SECTIONS OF LAND.

PANAMA CITY BUT ONE.

Comment and Communications.

Pursuant to the call issued last week by J. H. Drummond some sixty odd persons assembled in Ware's Hall on Tuesday evening to take action upon the incorporation of St Andrew.

Mr Drummond called the meeting to order and stated in a general way what should be done by the bay people to improve this section so that visitors and investors might be induced to come among us, and the necessity of prompt and united action to that end.

Mr Drummond was then elected chairman of the meeting, and G. T. Allen, secretary. Mr Drummond then read from the Statutes those sections referring to the incorporation of a community into a village, and called upon those present to give their views upon the subject. There being no immediate response Mr Drummond noted that G. M. West, of Panama City was present, and suggested that he give his views. Mr West stated as there had been no limits to the municipality that it was proposed to organize placed before the meeting, he was not sure that he was entitled to speak thereon, as possibly no interest with which he was connected would be involved. Mr Drummond then gave the meeting the limits that he had decided upon, stating that he would not consent to incorporation unless they were maintained.

These limits were beginning at a point on the bay shore on the section line between sections 5 and 6, Township 4 South Range 14 West, thence north to the northeast corner of section 30, thence west to the bay, taking in sections 6, Township 4 South, Range 14 West; sections 30 and 31 in Township 3 South, Range 14 West; sections 25, 26, 34, 35 and 36, Township 3 South Range 15 West; and section 1, Township 4 South, Range 15 West; with all the waters of the bay in front of these lands to the centre of the bay.

As the meeting was Mr Drummonds affair there was no use in further parley after he had delivered his ultimatum, but as a large majority of the lands in section 6, Township 4 South, Range 14 West are the property of the Gulf Coast Development Company, Mr West General Manager of that company stated that he thought the proposition unfair to Panama City, and one that he felt positive would not be received favorably by the people of that place, or the voters in the east end of Precinct 5. Mr R. L. McKenzie, Vice President of the G. C. D. Co., also gave it as his opinion that too much was being asked for in the way of territory, and thought that a compromise of the conflicting interests was advisable that, harmony might be maintained, and the object sought by the St Andrew people be attained. Mr J. H. Brown when called upon for his views stated that it appeared to be a personal matter between Mr Drummond and Mr West and he did not consider it proper to take a part in the discussion. Mr Bruton, of Bainbridge, Ga., was called upon by Mr Drummond and gave the latter what assistance he could. Mr Brown was then called to the chair while Mr Drummond showed his clientage a map he had prepared of the territory he should insist upon, stating that he thought it was a fair proposition and that they might as well have included Panama City. Mr West further opposed giving St Andrew a territory consisting of some seven sections, leaving Panama City but one, and stated that it was his opinion that it was a "hoggish proposition" that no honest man would approve of. Mr Emmons doubted the G. C. D. Co's ownership of such portion of section 6 as was claimed by Mr West, and was shown a map of the companys property by Mr McKenzie in con-

firmation of the statement made by the latter.

A vote was then taken to voice the opinion of the meeting upon Mr Drummonds proposition, which received out of the 66 men present 31 votes in the affirmative, three out of the remaining majority voting in the negative, the remainder not voting. Mr Emmons then proposed that Mr Drummond go ahead and prepare the necessary notices calling for an election to decide the question of incorporation which was carried, and the meeting then adjourned.

COMMUNICATIONS.

St Andrew, Nov 13th, 1907.

Editor PILOT:

I am as interested as any one along this shore in the growth of St Andrew. Anything that will better the conditions of its citizens I will favor.

But this movement for incorporation has a mighty queer look to me as well as some others. Who is to be benefitted by it? What are some 1,500 acres of wild land belonging to A. J. Gay, and which he is selling to settlers who will improve it, taken in to a city for? Who is going to make a truck farm where all the improvements they make will be doubly taxed to pay for expensive school houses, side walks, streets, docks, water-plants, acetalene gas lighting plants, pounds for shutting up our cows, pigs, and horses?

We have got along a goodly number of years and lived quietly and peaceably with all mankind with out any of these things, and could possibly do it a while longer if permitted to. I am not opposed to the building of a school house that will accommodate our children, but such a building does not seem to be big enough for the promoters of this scheme.

I wonder if the one decent street we ever had, made so by the hard work of that man who had the interests of this place at heart, and worked for them, and advanced them more than any one else ever has, our departed friend and good neighbor L. M. Ware, which has been made almost impassible, is to be paved by the city and adjoining property owners when we are made in to a city? There is a whole lot of things Mr Editor that I want my neighbors to think over before voting upon this matter.

Truly &c.

K.

Our correspondent "K" probably voices the opposition in St Andrew to the proposed incorporation. Whether entirely opposed to incorporation he does not state, but his communication would imply that he is. The PILOT thinks that if properly done, and economically carried out, incorporation of what legitimately belongs to St Andrew would be a wise thing to do. But to reach out after miles of territory that has no connection whatever with the place, and never can have, to let one mans private interests decide such an important matter as the incorporation of the village means, does not seem to be either wise or equitable. And the PILOT does not think that the courts will sustain any such action. They have not done so in the past and it would be a reversion of all precedents if they do so now.

Upon strictly St Andrew subjects spoken of above the PILOT does not consider itself warranted in speaking. Those are matters which its citizens will have to settle themselves. A village government controlled by a clique, has always proved expensive and damaging, and there is no reason to hope for any different conditions there. A mayor and five or more alderman, will find various ways to greatly increase taxation, and when elected through the power of a section of a village, or through one mans influence, the remainder of the corporation will undeniably have to suffer.

Chipley, Fla., Nov. 11th, 1907.

Editor PILOT:

An interesting item in the last issue of the PILOT was the call for incorporating St Andrew. You did not state whether Bay Head and Gay were included, or how they came to miss Millville, but I notice Panama City is making a vigorous kick.

I think it just as well to keep cool and let St Andrew set the pace. She is doing most of the voting now but two years from now Panama City will do the most of it, and she will be a high headed little yearling. She will want water works, electric lights, fine school houses and all the trimmings, and if the pace gets a little lively for the St Andrew end of the village she cant kick.

To a man up the country it looks as though Panama City will get the best end of the bargain in the long run. If St Andrew gets herself yoked up with Panama City she may not get loose when she wants to.

Yours truly

C.

Our correspondent outlines conditions that since the publishing of the call have been brought to the attention of the party bent on incorporating St Andrew, causing a decided change in his tactics. For fear that there might be within a year or so, such a number of voters in this end of Precinct No 5 as would give it the full control of the corporation, as most assuredly would be the case, it was decided by the plotters to cut down Panama City's vicinage to the very smallest possible limits, in that way doing this place all the injury possible, without incurring the possibility of future trouble. There can be no claim that such a course is honorable, but as has been stated by a citizen of St Andrew "It is possible to do up Panama City now, as we have the voters," thus admitting the negative that it would not be possible to "do up" a friendly neighboring town if they waited longer. Such a course may be deemed wise and just by those who are so completely dominated by the man insisting upon it that they dare not say their souls are the own, but to an investigating, fair minded man, there can be no question as to its unfairness.

As soon as St Andrew becomes a city no hog will be allowed to walk on Commerce street unless properly clothed, muzzled, and its voice tuned to a minor key.

One important improvement proposed for the new city of St Andrew, to be paid for by non resident tax payers, is a costly, charming, and commodious lock up for the sole benefit of imbibers of pine top.

As A. J. Gay is the owner of over a third of the land that it is proposed to incorporate as St Andrew, it would be quite the proper caper for him to remove there and receive his portion of the offices, say mayor, treasurer, and police judge.

Millville must not feel grieved beyond consolation over its not being included in the new incorporation scheme. The noise of the saws and the whistling of the locomotives was too much of a sleep destroyer to admit of its being connected officially with the quietude of St Andrew. Otherwise that territory would have been taken in.

G. M. West, R. L. McKenzie, and E. M. Goodson represented Panama City at the meeting held in Wares Hall on Tuesday evening. They had been invited by prominent St Andrew citizens to be present, though after the delivery of Mr Drummonds ultimatum in opening the meeting they were at loss to know for what purpose their presence was required.

Some of Panama City's well wishers in St Andrew suggest that when we incorporate we can take in Millville and east of there, to make our limits equal to theirs. Why not extend Panama City's limits to include Parker, Callaway, Cook, Wetappo, and possibly Blountstown, in Calhoun county? If we are going into the land grabbing business we might as well bag the whole country.

If St Andrew wishes to do the square thing in the incorporation deal why not appoint a committee consisting of three men from there and an equal number from Panama City, with possibly some gentleman from outside either place, to decide as to what would be a just and equitable division of territory. That would eliminate the one man rule or ruin element from the proposition.

St. Andrew.

Wes Gwaltney reached home yesterday on the Tarpon.

Mr Tom Clarkson will leave on Fridays Tarpon for an extended trip to Louisiana.

Mrs J. Sturrock arrived on yesterday's Tarpon after an extended visit north and east.

We are pleased to note that Mrs Dr Mitchell is fast recovering from her serious illness.

Mrs Bert Ware left on Fridays Tarpon for an extended visit with friends in Pensacola and Mobile.

Dr A. J. H. Jansenius, a popular physician of St Andrews, was in the city yesterday.---Verdict Chipley.

H. J. Bruton, of Bainbridge, Ga., has been here on a business trip for some days. He is stopping with Mr Drummond.

Dr Jansenius was called to Cook on Tuesday to attend the family of Mr Stewart, all of whom it is reported have typhoid fever.

Capt F. A. Witherill, of Old Town, returned from a visit to Jacksonville and the East Coast on Fridays Tarpon, coming by way of Apalachicola.

Mr Whitford and daughter, some of our regular winter visitors, arrived here yesterday on the Tarpon. They are stopping at Mr J. T. Gwaltney's.

Presiding Elder Peterson, of De- than, held services in the M. E. church at St Andrews Sunday forenoon and night. Quarterly meeting was also held.

J. R. Thompson has his lot near the M. E. church cleared off, upon which he is to erect his new dwelling house. The location is a fine one, and Mr T. is planning for a good building.

The Sunday Pensacola Journal says "The schooner Lucy H., from St. Andrews, entered yesterday with a heavy cargo of naval stores from the Sale-Davis company, and was loading a return cargo of freight for that firm yesterday."

The boat reached here on her return trip Monday forenoon.

Mr Henry J. Bruton, one of the Bainbridge, Ga., boys who has helped to make Bainbridge great, was in the city Thursday accompanied by Mr L. B. Griffin, of Decatur county. These gentlemen were en route to St Andrews where they were booked for a stay of a week.---Apalachicola Times.

Chas Balson, of Vermillion, Ohio, now at the home of W. W. Bates in Cromanton, where he and his wife are spending the winter months, will preach in the M. E. Episcopal church in St Andrews Sunday morning. Sacraments of communion will be administered at close of morning service.

Commerce street that was so well macadamised with old oyster shells, by the late Capt Ware, has been graded down from Dr Mitchell's store westward, by Mr Drummond, and the material used as a filler in the new bank building upon, which to place the floor. At present the street presents an unsightly appearance.

Messrs Dyer & Kronmiller's brick yard outfit came in on the Lucy H., and these gentlemen are now transferring the same from the schooner to a barge which will be towed to the yard for unloading. The machinery consists of the brick machine, a massive affair, engine, boiler, and other accessories.

The employes in the post office worked until after midnight on Monday last to sort the three days mail that arrived that night, so that East Bay post offices might have this delayed mail on Tuesday. This doubling of the mail from the railway in to that office makes much extra work there, and all must be done at night.

One of our bay fishermen, Ed Fox, on Saturday caught a large number of red snappers and groupers in the lower bay between Lands End and Hawks point. He sold them at Millville. This is the second large catch of red snappers in the bay within a short time.

Barney Johnson is here on a visit to his brother Henry Johnson.